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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

September 3, 2002

Chairman Getman  
and Commissioners Downey, Knox and Swanson  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Ste. 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re September 5, 2002 Commission Meeting  
Agenda Item #15

Dear Chairman Getman and Commissioners Downey, Knox and Swanson:

I understand that all State agencies have been asked to submit proposals to cut expenditures by 20% in fiscal year 2003-04.

I am currently the City Clerk in Cupertino and have held this position for nine years. I also served as Deputy Clerk and Assistant City Clerk in Oxnard for approximately eight years, and my responsibilities included serving filing officer for campaign statements and Statements of Economic Interest. The cuts that you may be considering to some of the FPPC programs will have a negative impact on City Clerks in all communities.

#### Hotline

Of particular concern to me is the possibility that the Hotline may be curtailed. I rely heavily on the expertise and speedy responses provided in this format all year long, but particularly during the months prior to council elections, when council candidates and myself need accurate answers urgently. I have used the Hotline personally on dozens of occasions, and cannot speak highly enough of the excellent service I received. I also refer filers (candidates or designated employees) to the number for advice, and I know they appreciate it as much as I do.

#### Outreach Program

In 2001, I was fortunate enough to be one of the cities to participate in the Filing Officer Outreach Program. I found that, in spite of years of experience handling the FPPC documents, I was still doing a few things incorrectly. I was also very grateful for the focused, professional training provided to my brand-new Deputy Clerk and Office Assistant, who had never worked in a Clerk's office before. This program is invaluable and should be made available to anyone who serves in a filing officer role.

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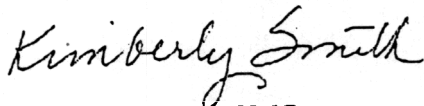
Filing Officer Training Programs and On-Site Seminars

I have attended a number of these myself, and have hosted one for my council candidates. The seminar and the information provided was invaluable to everyone who attended. Based on that positive experience, I now strongly encourage my candidates and treasurers to attend these seminars. In fact, I tell them that I think the seminar should be a requirement before nomination papers can be taken out!

I hope that you will take my comments into consideration and look for areas where cuts can be made that will not impact the services that you currently provide to City Clerks, as well as our filers. The services now provided by the FPPC are exemplary and you and your staff are to be commended for the improvements that they have made over the last few years. In order to preserve the integrity of the Political Reform Act it is imperative that these services remain intact as they are functioning today.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Smith".

Kimberly Smith, CMC  
City Clerk